

## God Opens Doors

What are some of the ways that God uses to open the hearts of college students to faith? The methods God uses are just amazing.

After a long winter break, students from Slippery Rock University, Grove City College, and Westminster College came back to study online or in the classroom. While they were gone All Saints Fellowship kept in touch by telephoning them to tell them they were in our prayers. They appreciated the calls.

Consequently, it was normal to call students like Natty and his wife Holly (not their real names) on the first day that SRU began classes. Natty from Sri Lanka is an SRU graduate. His wife Holly is an undergraduate from Pennsylvania. He is Buddhist, while she is a Christian due to her grandmother's influence. I called thinking they would just enjoy a hello from me and an invitation to come and visit when they had time. Natty used to come in when he was an undergraduate because his father had suffered severe health problems and he needed to talk. He had also called when he needed help finding the right car to buy. But this time, much to my surprise and pleasure, Natty asked if they could visit that very afternoon.

Their visit turned out to be a great opportunity to share friendship and, most importantly, more faith. They excitedly told me about their plans to help others after they finish their studies. They described their decision not to have children; a decision they had made for several reasons: they believe they can do more worthwhile work by helping people who need help and by supporting helpless animals. Also, they realize how much effort it takes to raise a child. They commented on the "stress" it puts on parents to raise a child. They showed their photos of their three rescued cats who are spoiled and a bit naughty. Their cats filled their lives with love.

As the conversation developed, I asked Natty what he believes about life. He said he believes that "what will be will be." Holly then said that she believes in being kind. She does not attend church at this time.

I met Holly after she had married Natty. At that time, she had not seemed concerned about his faith, but when I asked Natty what he believes about God, her face grew animated. Clearly, she did care and was glad the topic had been broached. God had opened the door by giving us time to talk about what Christians believe. God also gave an opportunity to give Natty an easy-to-understand book called How Good Is Good Enough by Andy Stanley, which goes to the heart of faith: it argues that all other religions say good works will get you into heaven and only Christianity says that Jesus is the only way.

Natty said he does not usually read books in print form, but Holly volunteered that she would and she would share it with him. My prayer is that Holly and I can meet for lunch, even though she has classes and two jobs, so that she can learn more about Jesus. Natty works, too. We pray that he will join us. We thank God for this open door to faith.

Another book which could open students' hearts to faith is Objection Overruled. A copy of this book was sent to All Saints campus ministry free of charge. It was sent by Issuesetc.org. Rev. Marius Zill, LCMS director of campus ministry and LCMS U wrote "I commend Objection Overruled to everyone, but especially to high school seniors and college freshmen." After reading the book, All Saints campus ministry ordered several copies, which we will give to our college students as a Valentine's Day gift from All Saints. We want them to see that "sound reason and science are allies, rather than antagonists to their Christian faith," as Rev. Zill comments. We look forward to sharing copies with international and American college students especially to students like Natty and Holly. Our amazing God will no doubt use this book to open college students' hearts to faith.



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